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INTELLIGENCE BRIEF

INDONESIA TO USE
EAST GERMAN RADIOBROADCASTING TRANSMITTERS
IN ITS EXPANDING INTERNATIONAL PROPAGANDA EFFORT

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INDONESIA TO USE
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The international radiobroadcasting capability of Indonesia will be increased by as much as 800 percent by the construction of a new international radiobroadcasting complex near Djakarta. The new complex is to be built by East Germany under the terms of a contract signed in October 1964. This new contract follows an agreement of May 1964 between Indonesia and the Philips Company of the Netherlands for seven powerful transmitters and brings Indonesia's 1964 commitment of funds for radiobroadcasting equipment to a total of US \$8.4 million. When these transmitters become operational in late 1968, the tremendous increase in transmission capability that they represent will herald the emergence of Indonesia as one of the major international radiobroadcasters of the world. Their completion also will mark the onset of an intensified worldwide propaganda effort aimed at furthering Indonesia's aspirations to Afro-Asian leadership.

1. Background

In the 15 years since Indonesia gained its independence, the deteriorated and loosely organized domestic radiobroadcasting facilities inherited from the Dutch have been expanded, modernized, and consolidated into an important propaganda arm of the government. This mass communications medium, at present consisting of 36 stations having an aggregate power of approximately 330 kilowatts (kw), is operated by the Ministry of Information in support of national policy. During this same period the international radiobroadcasting facilities of Indonesia have undergone relatively minor growth. International radiobroadcasting facilities at present consist of three shortwave transmitters in the Djakarta area, with an aggregate power of 170 kw, that direct programs to Southeast Asia, the Pacific area, the Middle East, North Africa, the Americas, and Europe.

The inherent international role served by several Indonesian domestic radiobroadcasting stations has eased somewhat the requirement to meet the "provocative broadcasts" of Malaysia by an expansion of international facilities. Because all Indonesian domestic radiobroadcasting stations utilize frequencies in excess of 2,300 kilocycles, their resultant propagation characteristics permit coverage of contiguous areas of Malaysia. An example of this capability was shown in March 1964 when the propaganda-laden "Crush Malaysia" programs

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were transmitted to audiences in Singapore and Malaya by the Indonesian domestic station in Palembang, South Sumatra.

2. Recent Developments

In October 1964 the government of Indonesia contracted with an East German electronics firm for the construction of an entire international radiobroadcasting complex to be erected near Djakarta. Scheduled for completion by the end of 1968, this new complex will cost approximately US \$6.3 million and will include 10 shortwave transmitters of from 100 to 150 kw each plus ancillary equipment. Two of the 10 transmitters will be operated as individual units, and the remaining 8 transmitters will be coupled to form 4 units of approximately 250 kw each. It is reported that the contract specifies Asia, Africa, and Latin America as the target areas to which broadcasts will be directed.

The terms of the contract call for a payment schedule of deferred installments to begin in November 1968 and to be completed in November 1974. These installments will include interest charges calculated on the unpaid balance of the contract at the rate of 5 percent and are payable in US dollars. This contract probably is unrelated to the radiobroadcasting agreement that has existed between the two countries since 1956, as that agreement provided only for the exchange of programs and "experience." //

The increase of 1,000 to 1,500 kw in international broadcasting transmitter power represented by the East German contract will supplement the transmitters purchased under the terms of an earlier contract with the Philips Company of the Netherlands. // The contract with the Philips Company, signed in May 1964 and valued at US \$2.1 million, calls for the delivery of two 120-kw and five 50-kw transmitters at an unspecified date. The 120-kw transmitters probably will be used in international radiobroadcasting, whereas the 50-kw transmitters probably will be installed in areas contiguous to Malaysia for use in a dual domestic/international role.

3. Outlook

The addition to Indonesia's international radiobroadcasting capability of transmitters having an aggregate power of from 1,240 to 1,740 kw generally conforms to the ambitious expansion plan announced

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in October 1963. Although an interest in expanding international radio-broadcasting is characteristic of most developing countries, the massive power of the new Djakarta international radiobroadcasting complex will outstrip even the most optimistically planned developments for this medium by other less developed countries. In fact the full operation of these new transmitters will mark the emergence of Indonesia as one of the major international radiobroadcasters of the world. Reflected by this coming effort is the apparent strong need of the government of Indonesia for an international voice that will provide both an apologia for its aggressive policies in Southeast Asia and a vehicle for furthering its aspirations to Afro-Asian leadership.

The effectiveness of the expanding Indonesian propaganda effort will be subject to limitations imposed not only by the audience potential in target areas but also by a number of technical and human factors affecting transmission quality and program content. Nevertheless, the completion of the new Djakarta international radiobroadcasting complex portends an intensified worldwide propaganda effort.

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